

## Message Text

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15

ACTION ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 DHA-02 AID-05 INSE-00

VO-03 OMB-01 /096 W

----- 060053

R 091310Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3827

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

USMISSION GENEVA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 9909

BEIRUT PASS USINT BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PINS, IZ, IR

SUBJECT: IRAN-IRAQ: FINAL SETTLEMENT DRAGS ON, LARGE-SCALE  
RETURN OF KURDS BEGINS.

REFS: A)TEHRAN 8953, B)TEHRAN 8585, C)STATE 218004

1. REZA GHASSEMI, MFA OFFICER IN CHARGE IRAQI AFFAIRS, TOLD  
EMBOFF OCT. 8 FONMIN KHALATBARY HAD NOT YET SCHEDULED TRIP TO  
BAGHDAD TO SIGN FINAL SETTLEMENT OF VARIOUS BORDER ISSUES.  
GHASSEMI HAS ALSO NOT SCHEDULED HIS OWN TRIP TO BAGHDAD WITH  
DIRECTOR GENERAL SADRIEH AND LEGAL AFFAIRS CHIEF KAZEMI TO  
PREPARE DOCUMENTS FOR LATER SIGNATURE BY KHALATBARY AND HIS  
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IRAQI COUNTERPART. THERE WERE NO OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS TO

BE RESOLVED, GHASSEMI CONCLUDED, BUT ALL UNDERSTANDINGS PREVIOUSLY REACHED HAD TO BE WORKED INTO FINAL FORM.

2. ALTHOUGH HE COULD NOT GIVE ACCURATE FIGURES, GHASSEMI SAID A FEW THOUSAND KURDISH REFUGEES HAVE RETURNED TO IRAQ IN PAST TEN DAYS. SOME THIRTY TO FORTY THOUSAND HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO GO. DENYING RUMORS OF VIOLENCE AMONG REFUGEES UNWILLING TO CROSS BORDER, HE DECLARED IRAN WOULD NOT FORCE ANY REFUGEES TO RETURN. ON OTHER HAND, GHASSEMI SAID THAT BECAUSE KURDISH REFUGEES HAD BECOME LAZY AND WERE REFUSING WORK OFFERED BY IRANIAN AUTHORITIES IT WAS HOPED THAT ALL OF THOSE WHO DID NOT WANT TO REMAIN HERE WOULD GO BACK TO IRAQ. ASKED WHERE THIS LEFT KURDISH REFUGEES WANTING TO GO TO OTHER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING U.S., GHASSEMI SAID IRAN'S ATTITUDE WOULD HAVE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT IRAQI VIEWS. IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT IRAQ BE GIVEN NO CAUSE FOR SUSPICION OF IRAN'S MOTIVES. HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN CLOSE COORDINATION WITH IRAQI OFFICIALS ON ALL BORDER MATTERS, AND IMPLIED THAT IRAQIS MIGHT HAVE VETO ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR KURDISH REFUGEES TO LEAVE IRAN FOR OTHER COUNTRIES. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S QUESTION ABOUT DESTINATION OF REFUGEES RETURNING TO IRAQ, GHASSEMI SAID HIS INFORMATION WAS THAT IRAQIS HAD GIVEN UP PLANS TO RELOCATE THEM IN SOUTH OF IRAQ, AND MORALE OF RETURNING REFUGEES HAD BEEN BUOYED UP BY THIS NEWS.

3. UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE GOODYEAR ARRIVED TEHRAN OCT.7 AND WILL BE CALLING ON GHASSEMI MORNING OCT.11 TO DISCUSS KURDISH REFUGEE ISSUE. DESPITE HIS HEDGING ON OVERALL QUESTION OF REFUGEES GOING TO THIRD COUNTRIES, GHASSEMI SAID HE THOUGHT MATTER OF PERMISSION TO RETURN TO IRAN WITHIN TWO YEARS AFTER DEPARTURE COULD PROBABLY BE WORKED OUT WITH UNHCR IF IT WERE THE ONLY MAJOR PROCEDURAL PROBLEM (PARA 9 REFTEL (C) REFERS).

4. ASKED ABOUT STATUS OF KURDISH DEMOCRATIC PARTY, GHASSEMI SAID CHAIR OF LEADER WAS EMPTY AND KDP'S INFLUENCE THEREFORE WANING. HE AGREED THAT TALEBANI DID NOT HAVE STATURE TO FULFILL BARZANI'S ROLE. HE TOO HAD HEARD REPORTS TALEBANI WAS TRYING TO ORGANIZE KURDS IN SYRIA AGAINST IRAQ, AND THOUGHT AN UNNAMED FOREIGN POWER MIGHT BE SUPPORTING TALEBANI.

5. COMMENT: FROM GHASSEMI'S REMARKS IT SEEMS CLEAR IRAN IS CONFIDENTIAL

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ANXIOUS TO SEND AS MANY KURDISH REFUGEES BACK TO IRAQ AS POSSIBLE AND WILL BE HIGHLY SOLICITOUS OF IRAQI VIEWS TO ACCOMPLISH THIS GOAL. MAJOR NEW FACTOR IS THAT MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES FROM IRAN TO THIRD COUNTRIES MAY BE CONTINGENT ON IRAQI PERMISSION. VIEWS OF USINT BAGHDAD ON IRAQI ATTITUDE TOWARD MOVEMENT OF KURDS TO THIRD COUNTRIES WOULD BE HELPFUL.  
HELMS

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## Message Attributes

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